

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph beginning at col. 6, line 28 with the following:

The system operation is illustrated by means of the flowchart set out in FIG. 2.

The process starts (10) upon receipt of an incoming telephone call signalled to the control unit 4 by the telephone line interface 2; the control unit responds by instructing the speech synthesiser 1 to play (11) a message stored in the message store 3 requesting the caller to give the name of the required town. The caller's response is received (12) by the recogniser. The recogniser 3 then performs its recognition process (13) with reference to the data stored in the store 6 and communicates to the control unit 4 the name of the town which most clearly resembles the received reply or (more preferably) the names of [ail] all those towns which meet a prescribed threshold of similarity with the received reply.

We suppose (for the sake of this example) that four town names meet this criterion. The control unit 4 responds by instructing the speech synthesiser to play (14) a further message from the message data store 3 and meanwhile accesses (15) the directory database 9 to compile a list of all road names which are to be found in any of the geographical locations corresponding to those four town names and also any additional location entries obtained by accessing the equivalence data store 39. It then uses (16) this information to update the road name recognition data store 7 so that the recogniser 3 is able to recognise only the road names in that list.

Replace the paragraph beginning at col. 7, line 38 with the following:

It will be seen too, that the number of possible lists will, in most applications, be so large as to prohibit their preparation in advance, and hence the construction of the list is performed as required. Where the recogniser is of the type (e.g. recognisers using Hidden Markov models) which require setting up for a particular vocabulary, there are two options for updating the relevant store to limit the recognizer's operation to words in the list. One is to start with a fully set-up recogniser, and disable all the words not in the list; the other is to clear the relevant recognition data store and set it up afresh (either completely, or by adding words to a permanent basic set). It should be noted that some recognisers do not store recognition data for [ail] all words which may be recognized. These recognisers generally have a store of textual information relating to the words that may be recognized but do not prestore data to enable the speech recogniser to recognise words in a received signal. In such so-called "dynamic recognisers" the recognition data is generated either immediately before or during recognition.